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SUBJECT: CZECH REPUBLIC: NO EU CONSENSUS ON WTO/DOHA

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Econoff delivered reftel demarche to Ministry of Industry and Trade (MPO) EU Multilateral Trade Policy and Common Policy Director Ladislava Votavova on February 9. Votavova said that while there was lot of chatter about a possible breakthrough for the stalled WTO Doha Development Round negotiations, there has been "no shift" in the EU position on agriculture and member states remain split into two camps. One camp consists of 14 countries (e.g., France, Poland, Spain) that view agriculture protection as the priority. The other camp of 13 member states (e.g., Netherlands, Finland, Sweden) see non-agriculture market access (NAMA) and services liberalization as the priority. The Czechs belong to this latter camp. Votavova said that while the GOCR would push for movement on services and NAMA at the EU Trade Ministers' meeting February 11, she doubted that any decision or negotiating priority will come out of the subsequent February 12 GAERC meeting.

GRABER